

NOV 11 1997

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

State Baptists assisting in deaf ministry

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

A group of five deaf Mississippi Baptists traveled to Venezuela this summer to help strengthen deaf missions in that South American country, which has a partnership missions relationship with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The five were members of the deaf congregation at Woodland Hills Church in Jackson. They were led by Jim Booth, pastor of the deaf congregation.

Traveling with Booth, who is hearing, were Bobby and

The group worked with two secular deaf service organizations and with Memorial Baptist Church in Caracas, the capital city.

At the service organizations, the group led in self-esteem workshops.

David and Jerry Browder, missionaries to the deaf, said they had been wanting to get into some of the secular deaf associations but because of another denomination's abuse of the privilege, the associations were cautious about church groups.

Booth said the volunteers were told they could not preach or push a church to the deaf in these groups.

At one of the associations in Los Teques, the three-hour presentation to 29 deaf people was based on Booth's perspective that people are made up of three parts: mental, physical, and spiritual.

"That gave us the opportunity to touch on the spiritual aspect of our lives," said Booth.

At that point, the deaf Mississippians were able to give their Christian testimonies. They were so well received that they were invited to return to Los Teques for a three-day workshop in the future.

At the Caracas association, a total of 101 people were present. Jerry Browder was invited by the president of the deaf association to summarize the workshop because the deaf there believed her signing was clearer than any other.

"We had been most anxious about this day since we would be dealing with associations that may be antagonistic against Christian principles.



IN ANY LANGUAGE — Gloria Gladney (left) sings "How Great Thou Art" as Jerry Browder interprets into Venezuelan sign language. (BR special photo)

"We had asked people to pray for this day, that it would be used to open doors for David and Jerry Browder. We feel that our prayers were answered. We believe that God gave us the ability to say the things that would open the doors," said Booth.

Again, the group was invited to return for longer workshops.

At Memorial Church, they worked with deaf interpreters and tried to help the church in its outreach with Bible studies and workshops.

With about 46 attending the church workshop, the leaders taught about the needs of deaf people and the deaf talked about what makes a good deaf ministry and what attracts them to a church.

"We also spent some time talking about how to find and train an interpreter and about a

code of ethics for the interpreter," said Booth.

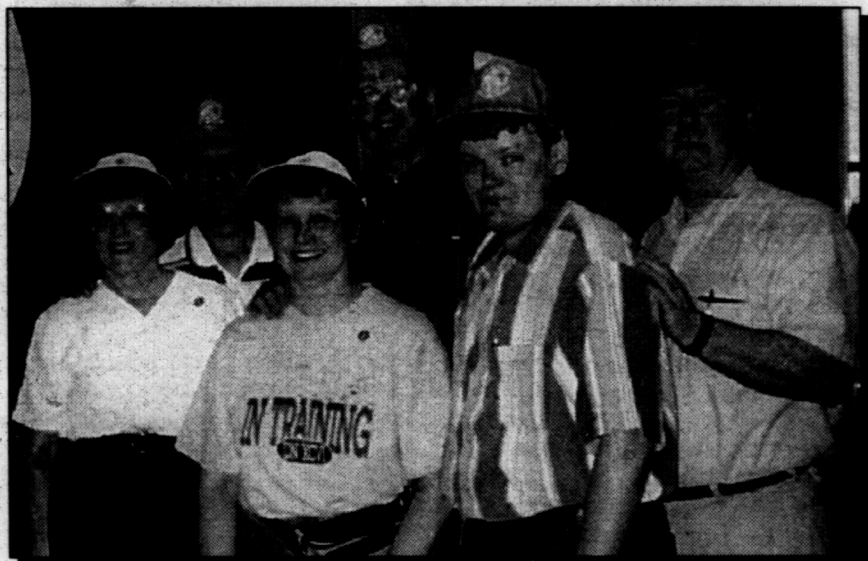
Booth, who serves as consultant for deaf ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said that after the volunteers left, a group of deaf people not involved at Memorial went to the deaf leadership asking for them to begin a Bible study.

Booth said, "The hearing pastor of the church said he had a new vision of reaching out to the community — both hearing and deaf — to reach them for the Lord."

David Browder told Booth's group, "You don't know how much you have helped us."

Said Phyllis Smith, "The best part of the trip was the opportunity to touch the secular deaf at the deaf associations. I hope I can go back to share more about Jesus."

"They are hungry to hear more about Jesus Christ."



BOUND FOR SOUTH AMERICA — Rested and ready to leave Jackson for Caracas, Venezuela are (from left) Gloria Gladney, Bobby Gladney, Phyllis Smith, Jack Smith, Larry Woodward, and Jim Booth. (BR special photo)

Gloria Gladney; Jack and Phyllis Smith; and Larry Woodward.

Since there are numerous similarities between American and Venezuelan sign language, Booth said that after a day or two the Mississippians could communicate pretty well with Venezuelan deaf.

TV needs parental involvement

Parents who want to keep their children from becoming immune to violence must take an active role in monitoring their television viewing habits, a leader in children's television told Southern Baptist church leaders Oct. 23.

Hedda Sharapan, associate producer of the "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" television program on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), was a featured speaker at the National Children/Preschool Seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Sharapan gave several suggestions to attendees who work with children and preschoolers that can encourage healthy interaction with television:

- 1) Use your eyes. "Watch some of the television that the kids are watching so you can know what they're talking about."
- 2) Use your mouth. "Your kids need to hear from you when things don't relate to your values."
- 3) Use your hand and write letters to the networks or sponsors of programs.
- 4) Use your finger — to turn it off.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

MBC gathers in Jackson

3

Ukrainians visit MBC

4

Executive Comm. chosen

5

Lay missions groups meet

6

Looking back

10 years ago

Trustees of Mercer University in Atlanta take a solid stand in support of President R. Kirby Godsey in response to charges by a Marietta layman who accused Mercer of "immoral" acts on campus and alleged that Godsey was a "universalist."

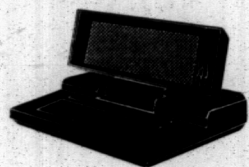
20 years ago

Straight Bayou Church, Sharkey County, holds its annual Harvest Day emphasis. Since the first Harvest Day 14 years ago, the church has been brick-veneered, new pews added, carpet installed, the parking lot paved, and the grounds landscaped.

50 years ago

Mississippians at the Southern Seminary and the WMU Training School in Louisville, Ky. elect state club officers: Clarence Lassetter, treasurer; William Ferrell, vice-president; Jack Glaze, chorister; Clark McMurtry, president; and Helen Armstrong, Program chairman.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Beverly Stank

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Bettye Coward, Clinton;
Vickie Ford, Olive Branch;
Larry Garner, Jackson;
Bill Hardin, Picayune;
Gary Richardson, West Point;
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;
Debbie Sills, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address
to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800

VOLUME 121 NUMBER 39
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

What a difference 24 hours can make

The 162nd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is now an object of history. Messengers from churches all across the state gathered Oct. 28-29 at First Church, Jackson, for what has been termed one of the most harmonious annual meetings that anyone can remember.

Given the strained relationships and harsh words in many of our sister Southern Baptist state conventions, that's no small accomplishment. No one else lays aside egos and personal agendas like Mississippi Baptists when it comes to the work assigned to us by our Savior.

At the risk of being repetitious, it bears pointing out once again that Mississippi Baptists are the brightest beacon on the highest hill, lighting the way to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

A record \$25.5 million Cooperative Program budget was adopted without a dissenting vote. How many years in a row have Mississippi Baptists approved a record budget, and then exceeded that budget? One loses count.

Bold stands were taken in the form of resolutions approved without a dissenting vote:

◆ Standing up for persecuted Christians around the world in the same week our timid national leaders entertained and commended the dictator of the most barbaric anti-religion government in the world.

◆ Calling for a month of prayer and observances in January 1998 to mark the 25th anniversary of the most barbaric act of our own government, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion on demand.

◆ Challenging Christians to get back to the business of using Sundays to win lost people to Christ instead of simply entertaining ourselves.

Mighty preaching, heartfelt testimonies, moving Bible Treasures, and thunderous singing stirred the soul and motivated the spirit. It was a great reunion of the family of God.

It's too bad more Mississippi Baptists weren't there.

One attendance issue is that the number of registered messengers has steadily declined for several years. The annual meeting that once drew around 1,800 messengers now fails to top 1,500.

In addition, the 1,476 registered messengers at the 1997 meeting represent a drop of nearly 10% in only one year. Those are disturbing numbers that need to be turned around.

A second attendance issue is both disturbing and embarrassing. This year's business sessions were generally well-attended, especially when a contested race for office was held.

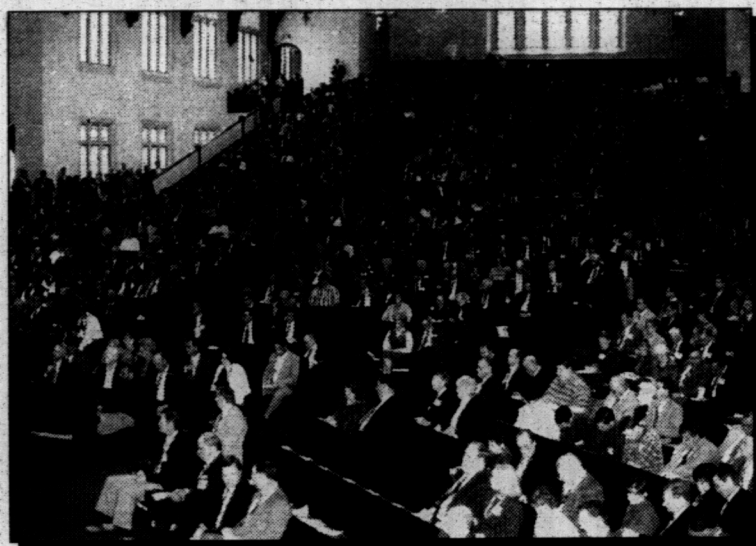
The Oct. 28 business session that included the presidential election was packed, with many people standing around the walls on the floor level of the cavernous First Church sanctuary (see top photo at right).

A lot of folks made the effort to get there for that session, but what a difference 24 hours can make.

At the closing session of the convention on the following morning, a little boy could have thrown a big rock clear across the sanctuary with only minimal risk of hitting anyone (see bottom photo at right).

True, the closing session didn't have a hot political race but it did contain an inspiring message from one of Southern Baptists' most influential leaders: Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary — our adopted "Mississippi seminary." Only a handful were present to hear him.

The same scenario has occurred for several years, resulting in virtual snubs to speakers such as Denton Lotz, head of the Baptist World Alliance, and Truett Cathey, founder and president of Chick-Fil-A.



Oct. 28 morning session (election of president)



Oct. 29 morning session (Chuck Kelley sermon)

We can do better. If we have determined that we are going to be the brightest beacon on the highest hill, that includes attending our state convention and attending it from start to finish.

Doing so is the only decent and respectful way to hold a state Baptist convention. At the 1998 annual meeting, let's set the standard in yet another category of Southern Baptist life.

See you there!

*A prayer for the conclusion of
the 162nd annual session of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention*

Dear Father, it's Mississippi Baptists, and we've been meeting again.

Meeting is something we Baptists do a lot of. It is part of our heritage, part of our commitment to working together as redeemed, free and faithful men and women of God seeking to follow you.

Sometimes we meet and eat. We like that, a lot.

Sometimes we meet to sing, pray, and hear your Word proclaimed. That excites us.

Sometimes we meet to conduct business like approving budgets, hearing reports, and passing resolutions. Truthfully Lord, we aren't much too fond of these kinds of meetings, at least if our attendance is any kind of measure.

Sometimes we meet to select those from among us whom we believe you would have serve as leaders. From our churches to

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



A Mississippi Baptist prayer

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

our annual convention, these are the meetings that draw the most of us. When it comes to elections, we get excited, start making phone calls and writing letters. Why, we Baptists will even leave the bookstore exhibit to go vote in an election. Somehow, Lord, we've become convinced that electing someone president or vice-president is the most important thing we do.

Yet, Lord, in my heart I feel that this is not so. Are you not more concerned with how we witness and advance your kingdom than who we elect? When you called me to pastor, I

was amazed at how a church would elect the best men it could the best way it knew how to serve as deacons. You never gave me a perfect group of deacons, Lord. Not once.

Yet, you blessed us. You invited us, sinners one and all, to join you in the work of the Kingdom. Somehow, through the mystery of your providence, you took an imperfect group of men and used them to lead a church to reach people for the Kingdom.

I don't think I will ever fully understand this, or get over the wonder of it. In your grace and

mercy, you allow imperfect creatures, brought together through often-confusing methods, to join you in a great work. Flawed as we are, you've asked us to be part of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Father, it's Mississippi Baptists, and we've been meeting again. There have been times in the past when we met and nothing of earthly good or heavenly significance seemed to come of it.

Please forgive us.

Then, there have been times in the past when, despite our sinfulness, you moved among us and as a result, men and women, boys and girls, at home and around the world, were added to your kingdom.

We give you the glory, Lord. It is my prayer, dear Lord, that this time, the results of our meeting may be like the latter of these, not the former.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Messengers adopt record \$25.5M budget

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

Mississippi Baptists, in perhaps the quietest and most harmonious convention of recent years on Oct. 28-29 at First Church, Jackson, unanimously adopted a record 1998 Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$25,546,608 and elected Temple Church, Hattiesburg pastor Dean Register to his first term as president.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD — Jimmy Porter (second from right), outgoing two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, passes the gavel Oct. 29 to incoming president Dean Register (left). Looking on are Register's wife Sharon (second from left) and Porter's wife Tommye Lynn. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The 1,476 messengers to the 1997 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) — down from 1635 last year — unanimously passed resolutions calling for:

- ◆ recognition and prayer for "faithful servants of God."
- ◆ support and prayer for persecuted Christians around the world.
- ◆ an end to abortion as public policy, especially partial-birth abortion.
- ◆ encouragement of worship of God over entertainment on Sundays. (See page five for complete text of resolutions.)

Messengers also warmly received such speakers as Ronnie Musgrove, Mississippi's Lt. Governor and a deacon in First Church, Batesville; Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, and Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Church, Jackson.

Messengers and their guests gave a standing ovation to Melissa Courtney, 1997 state speaker's tournament winner from First Church, Madison, whose balanced presentation concerning prayer in the classroom drew numerous amens.

Other speakers included:

- ◆ Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, and outgoing MBC president.
- ◆ Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, who preached the annual sermon.
- ◆ Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board (MBCB).

◆ Stephen Olford, founder of a preaching center named for him, who preached the Bible Treasure devotionals.

Register, 46, succeeds Porter, who completed two one-year terms as president, the traditional limit.

Register is former pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and churches in Franklin, N.C., and Franklinton, La. He is a graduate of Valdosta State University

Church, Poplarville, with a second by Grover Glenn, pastor of First Church, Charleston.

Powell was nominated by Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of Morgantown Church, Natchez, with a second by Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville.

Elected second vice president was Paul Blanchard, Winston Association DOM.

He defeated Ken Dawson, pastor of Temple Heights Church, Oxford, by a vote of 331 to 278.

Blanchard was nominated by Jimmy Collins, pastor of Arlington Church, Beaumont.

Dawson was nominated by Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven.

Gus Merritt, interim pastor of Hazel Church, Lake, was elected recording secretary. Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, and a former DOM, was elected associate recording secretary.

Both were nominated by retired DOM J. W. Brister of Madison and elected by acclamation.

A total of 37% of the 1998 CP budget, or \$9,452,245, will be sent to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes outside the state — matching the 1997 percentage.

However, with a \$1.4 million increase (5.8%) in the total budget, the portion going to SBC causes outside the state will be \$518,563 more than in 1997.

Within that SBC portion, \$257,926 is tagged for "Home mission work in Mississippi" — the approximate amount previously sent to the North American Mission Board (NAMB, formerly Home Mission Board) and then returned to Mississippi.

Currently, MBCB retains that amount for home missions projects in the state, which saves the cost of moving the money in and out of state.

Included in the 1998 CP budget is \$2,095,385 that will still be sent to NAMB for mission work in other states.

A series of proposed changes to the MBC Plan of Organization and Action, and to the MBC bylaws, was read into the minutes of the annual meeting for consideration at the 1998 MBC meeting.

The changes would modify the documents to reflect new relationships between MBC institutions and the convention which were approved at the 1996 annual meeting.

The changes include allowing an increase of up to 24 total trustees per board and having new trustees nominated jointly by the convention and the trustee boards.

No messengers rose to speak during the discussion periods prior to votes on the 1998 budget and the resolutions. All were adopted as presented.

There was no discussion from the floor on any matter except for a point of order from Bobby Hood, pastor of West Salem Church, Richton.

Hood protested a vote from the 1996 MBC annual meeting concerning adoption of a Covenant of Cooperation by trustees of the Mississippi Baptist institutions, which was not done by ballot. He said that was against the constitution and bylaws.

MBC President Jimmy Porter ruled Hood's point of order was not well taken, meaning the chair was not supportive of the point of order.

Hood appealed Porter's ruling but the appeal failed for lack of a second.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

NOVEMBER 6, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 39



The Committee on Committees nominates members of the Committee on Nominations, Order of Business Committee, Baptist Record Advisory Committee, and the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

The 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention is scheduled for Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson.

Richard Powell, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will preach the annual sermon. Chuck Pourceau, pastor of First Church, Louisville, is alternate preacher.

NEW OFFICERS — Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) officers for 1997-98 elected Oct. 28-29 at the MBC annual meeting were (back row, from left) Gus Merritt, recording secretary; Michael Weeks, assistant recording secretary; (front row, from left) Paul Blanchard, second vice president; Dean Register, president; and Kenneth Rhodes, first vice president. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Ukrainians know meaning of fast and pray

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Pastor Yaroslav Borsyk knows about the power of God. He stood before the Mississippi Baptist Convention, speaking through a translator, Olga Shevchenko — and knew his presence before this sister Baptist body was nothing short of a miracle.

Borsyk and Shevchenko came to Mississippi as guest of Pontotoc Association. Dan Robertson, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, was their host.

Borsyk is pastor of Borislav Baptist Church in western Ukraine. He is in the state to learn about Sunday School. His church is to be a pilot program for developing Sunday School work among the churches of his area.

According to Robertson, Borsyk is the most progressive pastor in the region and his church is a leader in innovative outreach ministries.

Robertson has made three trips to Ukraine as part of a partnership between the churches of Pontotoc Association and the churches of western Ukraine.

The Ukraine Christians are accustomed to seeing God move in tremendous ways.

"Under communism everything we did was illegal," Borsyk said. "Baptists had to meet secretly at night."

"A lot of people suffered. We had services in homes. (The) KGB would come and take (the) homes from them. Parents who taught their children about God, (the) KGB would take (their) children from them. People were

dismissed from work because of their faith. Many died.

"My father was a pastor. Always, my family had to suffer. Six times he lost work and had to pay money because he did unallowed work. At night the KGB would come and take my father. My mother would pray and fast, asking God to bring him back. He always came back."

Meeting places had to be moved constantly because they never knew who was a worshiper and who was an informant for the KGB.

"Young people from the whole region would come to the forest at night to hold a rally," he said. Baptisms were held late at night in a lake, usually twice a year.

Shevchenko's grandmother was a convert to Christianity under Baptist preaching. She was baptized at 3 a.m. in a lake. "She said all her life she would remember the light of the moon that night," Shevchenko said.

Shevchenko told of a time when Borsyk was baptizing and the KGB showed up. After asking why they were at the lake late at night, one man, an engineer, told them they were Christians and they had come to conduct a baptismal service.

"All the people watched — there were 70, maybe 80 people there — as the KGB beat him about the head," Shevchenko said. "We didn't think he would live, but he did. His name is Boris Zagorodnii."

Borsyk said that during the reign of communism in Ukraine some 8 million people were killed. Nobody knows how many of these were Christians but Borsyk knows that many were.

One was the president of the Baptist fellowship of the former Soviet Union, a man named Odintsov from Barnay in Ukraine. He was sent to a Siberian prison camp where on a forced march he was unable to keep up. He died and his body was left to wild dogs, Shevchenko said.

"For 72 years communism tried but could not destroy the church. They did everything they could," Borsyk said, "but one thing they could not take away from us — our faith in the Lord, our hope in him, and our fervent prayers."

When freedom came, Ukrainian Baptists got busy spreading the gospel.

"We held evangelistic meetings immediately wherever we could, in a cinema for example. Crowds came; 500-600 at a time would repent, people who had never heard about God," he said.

"Our church began to grow. In 1988 we built a new church building for 500. We thought (the) balcony would always be empty. Now people stand in corridors; there is no place to sit down. We hope to build a bigger building," he added.



UKRAINIANS VISIT MISSISSIPPI — Visiting the offices of The Baptist Record during the Mississippi Baptist Convention were (from left) Dan Robertson, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc; Olga Shevchenko, translator; and Yaroslav Borsyk, Ukraine pastor. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Both Borsyk and Shevchenko were fasting and praying for God to grant them two things on their trip to Mississippi. One, they wanted the opportunity to address Mississippi Baptists. On Oct. 28 during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Borsyk was granted a few minutes by convention President Jimmy Porter.

Second, they are hoping for a partnership with Baptists in Mississippi. They are convinced that in his timing and his way, God will answer their prayer.

Next on their agenda in the States is to visit the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"The Holy Spirit is telling us we need to have training," Borsyk said.

"The Great Commission says we need to make disciples. We can teach people through a Sunday School, and they will tell their friends and it will grow."

"This is very important to us."



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

What is happening in our society that makes young people want to kill their parents?

With the cultural "graying" of truth and values that our young people face every day — and with the continuing decline of parental involvement — young people can be easily deceived and confused. Many young people simply don't have a strong spiritual foundation on which to grow. Even though adolescents are literally programmed to begin pulling away and making their own decisions, a strong adult presence and well-understood boundaries are still necessary. Children need guidance and instruction, but not domination and control. Life can be a maze for young people and, frankly, for adults too. That's why prayer and Bible study is so important. Be a role model. Get into the Word, pray earnestly, and come alongside God so he can teach you the life lessons that can be passed on to your children.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

My brother is committing adultery. Should I tell his wife or first confront him?

First of all, be sure you have the facts; don't act on rumor or word-of-mouth. If your brother is indeed committing adultery, it is always better to first confront him and attempt to get him to turn from this sin. Do your best to get your brother into Christian counseling so he can begin to understand the reasons why he fell into adultery. It is really up to your brother to approach his wife and confess his sin. If you go first to his wife, you risk shattering her world and losing the opportunity to help your brother deal with this difficult situation in which he has placed himself and his family. Pray for him and his family. By confronting him in a Christian way and praying for him, there's a good chance that you can help save this marriage — and your brother's soul as well.

Secretary officers



Officers and representatives of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association (MBSA) met recently at the Baptist Building for planning activities for the year. The organization, in cooperation with the Department of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries (CAPM), promotes professional training and fellowship among churches, agencies, and institutional secretaries. The State Conference for Baptist Secretaries will be held on April 13-14 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Pictured (from left, seated) are Liz McGraw, Woodville, area representative; Danie Robins, Clinton, president; and Betty Anne Bailey, Jackson, chaplain; (standing) Sandy Komurke, Madison, second vice president; Dot Simmons, Gulfport, first vice president; Vivian Taylor, Waynesboro, secretary-treasurer; Paulette Morris, Ellisville, area representative; Linda Jenkins, Yazoo City, area representative; and Anne Martin, secretary, CAPM, Jackson. For more information, call Martin at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800, ext. 3905.

Resolutions approved by '97 messengers

No. 1 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Whereas, the one-hundred-sixty-second annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been beneficiary of the gracious hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, and

Whereas, we the messengers of the one-hundred-sixty-second annual session have been blessed, guided, and challenged by the informative and inspirational program planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the several officers and committees,

Therefore, be it resolved that we express grateful appreciation to:

1. Dr. Frank Pollard, Pastor, the members and staff of First Baptist Church of Jackson;

2. The speakers, singers, and instrumentalists, who led us in worship during the Convention;

3. Dr. Jimmy Porter, our Convention President, who has led in his second year as president with an emphasis upon "Follow Christ's Servant Example,"

4. All the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully as a labor of love.

No. 2 RESOLUTION ON FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Whereas there are many faithful servants of God serving our Lord and his Church both in Mississippi and around the world, and

Whereas, these faithful servants have lovingly and willingly made personal, financial, social, and family sacrifices, and

Whereas the families of these faithful servants have stood by them and experienced the pressure of isolation that is so much a part of faithful ministry, and

Whereas these faithful servants labor daily without thought of reward or recognition,

Be it therefore resolved that the messengers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention affirm our appreciation and affection for each of the faithful servants of God who seek daily to work and witness to a lost and broken world, and

Be it further resolved that we express our appreciation to their families who faithfully stood by them and joined them in their sacrifice of service, and

Be it finally resolved that we covenant to prayerfully ask our heavenly Father to continue to empower and bless each faithful servant and their families as they serve in our state and around the world.

No. 3 RESOLUTION ON PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Whereas Christian believers in over 60 countries around the world are daily persecuted for their faith in Christ and their obedience to his Word, and

Whereas the plague of Christian persecution affects more than 200 million people who daily face the reality of physical retaliation and even death, and

Whereas an additional 400 million believers daily face discrimination and legal impediments because of their faith in Christ, and

Whereas many Christian bodies

around the world have seemingly abdicated their responsibility to address the persecution of Christians and thus have trivialized the reality and horror of the persecution,

Be it therefore resolved that the Mississippi Baptist Convention in annual session thank our heavenly Father for the proud and faithful witnesses of persecuted believers around the world, and

Be it further resolved that we humbly covenant to pray for the spouses, children and family of persecuted believers as well as their churches and religious assemblies, and

Be it further resolved that we commit to pray for the oppression of Christians around the world that they may experience repentance and salvation and that our Heavenly Father will raise up more leaders for his persecuted church, and

Be it further resolved that we commit to pray daily for Christian believers:

◆ for churches in the Islamic world that laws forbidding evangelism, apostasy and blasphemy against Islam will be abolished;

◆ for churches in Communist lands that they will be strong in the face of government oppression;

◆ for churches in Latin America that they will act with wisdom amid rapidly changing social, religious, and political realities; and

Be it further resolved that we commit to pray that the leaders of the world's nations will have the courage to speak out regarding the pernicious violation of human rights and that the government of the United States will bring its economic and political position to bear in the world community in such a way as to not provide special status for those who would persecute believers and advocate terrorism, and

Be it finally resolved that we call upon Mississippi Baptists to join other believers in the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians on November 16, 1997.

No. 4 RESOLUTION ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

Whereas on January 22, 1998, the United States of America will have suffered under the blight of the United States Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, and

Whereas in these twenty-five years over 35 million unborn children have been legally aborted in licensed facilities throughout our nation, and

Whereas God-directed attempts at constitutional and statutory relief for the unborn have gone unfulfilled and have found little support among the leaders of our nation, and

Whereas the practice of partial birth abortion continues to be legalized even in the face of medical testimony of its horror and social testimony of its repugnant reality, and

Whereas after twenty-five years our nation continues to live under the plague of abortion and the reality that it has intentionally denounced the sanctity of human life;

Be it therefore resolved that the messengers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in annual ses-

sion pledge to pray and work for the elimination of abortion as public policy in our nation,

Be it further resolved that we encourage and support those state and national leaders who work to eliminate abortion, especially partial birth abortion, as state and national policy, and

Be it further resolved that we call upon our churches to observe 25 days of prayer regarding abortion from January first through January twenty-fifth 1998 as a visible and spiritual act of repentance for the twenty-five years our nation has suffered under the effects of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, and

Be it further resolved that we encourage the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to join with other believers throughout our state to declare that "Twenty-five is Enough" and to support the declaration of the governor of our state declaring January, 1998, as a Month of Prayer to End Abortion;

Be it finally resolved that we pray:

◆ for the hearts of mothers and fathers to be turned to their children, both born and unborn;

◆ that the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will continue to respond appropriately to those condoning abortion by offering loving attention to women in crisis;

◆ that government officials will do everything possible to protect the lives of the unborn;

◆ that those in the medical profession use their abilities not to destroy lives but to save them.

No. 5 RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING WORSHIP ABOVE ENTERTAINMENT

Whereas, historically Sunday morning has been given over to worship, and considered a day of reflection on the Lord, and

Whereas, Mississippi Baptists and most other Christian bodies reserved Sunday for the assembling together as the body of Christ to worship the Lord, and

Whereas, the word of God calls on us to remember the Lord's Day and keep it holy as we gather for the worship of God and for relief from the day-to-day stresses of life, and

Whereas, community sports, music, and dance competitions, and other such forms of organized activities are being planned on Sunday without any thought of the ministries of the church and the need of God's people for rest and reflection,

Be it therefore resolved, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention in annual session endeavor to reaffirm Sunday as a time of worship and to encourage those who promote and plan community events to protect the Lord's Day for the witness and work of the church,

Be it finally resolved, that Mississippi Baptists, out of a desire for respect of the Lord's Day and obedience to God's word, call upon Christian parents, church leaders, and community leaders to take a stand in protecting Sunday as a day of worship and rest and not to enter into competition with the church for the minds and loyalties of people in their community.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

1997-98 Executive Committee

Sue Dockery, member
Broadmoor Church, Jackson

Curtis Guess, pastor
Weir Church, Weir

Frank Harmon, pastor
First Church, Newton

Bobby Kirk, member
Roundaway Ch., Daddssville

Kermit McGregor, pastor
First Church, Mendenhall

Jerry Mixon, pastor
Rocky Creek Church,
Lucedale

Thad Moore, pastor
First Church, Holly Springs

Gary Richardson, pastor
First Church, West Point

Dan Robertson, pastor
West Heights Church,
Pontotoc

David Sellers, pastor
Tylertown Church, Tylertown

Bob Simmons, retired semi-
nary professor
Poplar Springs Dr. Church,
Meridian

Paul E. Smith, pastor
Bethel Church, Monticello

Dean Timbes, pastor
Hillcrest Church, New Albany

Robert Upchurch, member
Calvary Church, Tupelo

Johnny Walker, pastor
First Church, Winona

Kiely Young, pastor
First Church, Gulfport

Ex officio members

Dean Register, president
Miss. Baptist Convention

Bill Causey, executive director
Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.



Mississippi Baptist Convention Board officers elected Oct. 29 were (from left) Jerry Mixon, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale - vice president; Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall - president; and Thad Moore, pastor of First Church, Holly Springs - recording secretary. The board met immediately after the adjournment of the 1997 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Lay Missions speaker urges return to basics

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

Participants at the annual Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference Oct. 27 at First Church, Jackson, were told to consider the first two jobs God gave to man: name the animals and tend the garden.

The speaker, Mike Rogers, author of a workbook entitled

"The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in Your Workplace," which was also the theme of the conference itself, said that in today's terms, those jobs would be zoologist and farmer.

"It's not the type of job you do that makes (it) holy or secular," said Rogers. "It's the nature of your relationship with the Almighty."

Rogers contrasted God's job description with that of man's, explaining that God's job description is to be creator, initiator, ruler, and provider.

"Sin enters the marketplace when man takes on God's job description," said Rogers, noting that man's job is to cooperate with God's creation, respond to God's initiatives, obey God's rules, and depend on God's provision.

Rogers later told just over 300 people who attended the conference banquet, "If you really love God, it affects the way you live out your life."

He added, "No one has a greater influence than a man or



GOD AT WORK — Mike Rogers, speaker at the Lay Missions Conference, said that "God is always at work whether we know it or not," and that "God always accomplishes his objectives in spite of what people do or believe. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

woman who is right with God."

A second speaker at the banquet was Howell W. Todd, president of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, who said, "We must recognize that there is holy work to be done

outside the work of the church."

He pointed out that it is important to him "as a layman and as head of our flagship institution to mirror Christ in everything I do."

"My greatest joy is the affirmation that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be."

During the conference, Bobby and Dixie Kennedy of Wesson and James and Mattie Ray of Ripley, were named outstanding volunteers and given plaques.

Also, Jim Didlake, consultant in the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, was given the award of merit from the Brotherhood Commission, of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was made a member of the International Legion of Royal Ambassador (RA) Leaders, for his 15 years of work with RAs.



MAKING IT A PRIORITY — Priority, the Baptist Student Union singing group at Mississippi College, provided music at the Oct. 27 Lay Missions Conference banquet at First Church, Jackson. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

HOMEcomings

Faith, Silver Creek: Nov. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. service focusing on 15th anniversary and church history; George Lee, Columbia, guest speaker; James Netherland, guest singer; John L. Jones, pastor.

First, Nettleton: Nov. 9; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Paul Wilson, Tupelo, guest speaker; George C. Johnson, pastor.

Bellevue, Hattiesburg: Nov. 9; 45th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner on grounds; Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar

Association, guest speaker; 2 p.m., special dedication of the new 8400 sq. ft. education building and 6000 sq. ft. remodeled fellowship hall, office area, and senior adult classroom; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will bring the charge.

Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): Nov. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; building dedication service following lunch for new fellowship hall which was built debt free; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln Association, guest speaker; Bill Hudson, pastor.

Smithville (Monroe): Nov. 9; fellowship meal following morning services; Kermit Brann, preaching; Messengers Quartet, singing; Lee Gardner, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): Nov. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; singing

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

County. He was currently serving as interim pastor at Zion Church, Pontotoc County.

Survivors include his wife Joan B. Couch; three daughters, Ruth Brunner of Burlington, Wis., Roberta Moorehead of Rosedale, and Regina Yeager of Springhill, Tenn.; one son, Richard Couch of Memphis; one sister, Jane Thomas of Fort Worth, Texas; two brothers, Jim Couch of Tupelo, and Tommy Couch of San Marcus, Texas; and seven grandchildren.

John R. Couch, pastor, dies

John Richard Couch, 70, died Sept. 30 at his home in Tupelo after a sudden illness. He was born Oct. 21, 1926, in Pacific, Missouri. He graduated from Tupelo High School and received degrees from Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill.; Delta State University, Cleveland; and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Couch served two years on the mission field in Irbid, Jordan. He pastored churches in Kentucky and Mississippi before retiring in 1992. Mississippi pastorates included McCondy Church, Chickasaw County; Second Church, Calhoun City; First Church, Lambert; Meadowview Church, Starkville; and First Church, Rosedale. He also served as director of missions, Chickasaw Association, and interim pastor of Furrs Church, Pontotoc



Available in 20 ft. to 33 ft. models
(12 to 38 Passenger)

Church Buses Rental Buses

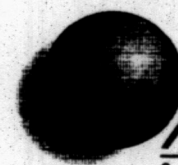
(New and Used)
•We buy used buses
•Guaranteed buy-back program
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.
Brentwood, Tenn.
1-(800)-370-6180
1-(615)-376-2287

CELEBRATE GLOBAL MISSIONS

AT THE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WITH THE



International
Mission Board

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Missions Walk-About

(4:30 p.m., NOBTS Hardin Student Center)

Historic Missionary Appointment Service
(7 p.m., Leavell Chapel)

Children's Mission Event

(7 p.m., Rec Center, for children in K-3rd grade; preregistration required)

After-Glow for College Students
(following the appointment service in the HSC)

Contact Dr. Don Stewart at 504/282-4455, ext. 3583 for more information.

PK UNSOUND

Editor:

Since its inception in 1990, the Promise Keepers (PK) movement has purported to bring men of all religious denominations together to worship, pray, and learn how to be more Godly men in a Godless society.

While the basic goals and aims of the PK movement are noteworthy, the underlying premise that believers should forget their denominational differences in order to pray, worship, and learn is completely contrary to the scriptural principles of separation from unbelief and errant brethren in the Lord.

A major tenet of the PK movement is that the movement has gone beyond doctrine; therefore, denominational ecumenical unity is promoted by this principle which PK maintains as being true.

People are being encouraged to de-emphasize doctrine so they can come together as though doctrine is a meaningless detail. What is doctrine, but the body of truth entrusted to the saints once and for all? Doctrine divides because truth divides.

This ecumenicity (promoting universal cooperation and unity among religious groups) is disgraceful to an all-holy God who places a great emphasis on the

purity of his church. Born-again, Bible-believing Christians must not join hands with any individual or denomination that preaches a false gospel or join with other denominations that do the same.

Beware of anyone who advocates full support and cooperation with Roman Catholicism or any other false religious system such as, but not limited to: Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, the New Age Movement, and the serious heresies in apostate Protestant churches.

Bennett Blanton
Houston

PRAY FOR BRAZIL WORK

Dear Editor:

We are asking you to please be in fervent prayer for the evangelical church here in Brasil.

About three months ago a group in the state of Bahia (central Brazil) began a campaign against the evangelical churches saying that they were "making too much noise" with their sound equipment, etc.

Fact is, it made some headlines, but no one really gave it much thought since there is freedom of religion here just like in the U.S.

Now things have worsened. They have passed several laws in the state against using sound equipment in evangelical churches, silence laws, laws against certain normally-used security precautions (bars on windows), etc.

Today I received a letter from the president of the Baptist Convention in Bahia citing several instances of Baptist churches, and other evangelicals, that have been fined by the government up to \$200,000 (in U.S. dollars).

At this point, the laws are only state laws, but this is a dangerous precedent that has been set.

Please pray with us that these laws can be repealed, that we might know how to react in the face of this attack by Satan, and that our All-Powerful Lord Jesus may be glorified.

Larry Braswell
Chapeco, Brazil

Editor's note: Larry Braswell, his wife Alicia, and their family are native Mississippians serving as Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil through the International Mission Board.

Our company proudly retains the name of our founder, L.L. Sams, a Southern Baptist pastor.



It has been our privilege to serve Southern Baptists since 1898.

- stained glass • carpet •
- pews • pulpit furniture •
- educational furniture •
- painting • more than 290 complete CHURCH RENOVATIONS

FREE BROCHURES

1-800-537-4723

P. O. Box 1430, Waco, TX 76703



Custom Church Interiors, Inc.

PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Staying Well Informed

Healthplex: The Marriage of Medical Care and Wellness

On Nov. 1, history was made on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. Amid the bustle of Mississippi College's homecoming ceremonies, a crowd of officials and guests cut the ribbon on the Baptist Healthplex at Mississippi College, ushering in a new era of health and wellness for people in Clinton and the surrounding area.

The Healthplex is unique, bringing medical care and wellness facilities together in one building. The 106,000 square foot Healthplex not only features 30,000 square feet of office space for a number of physicians, but also a world-class athletic club, physical therapy and rehab space and classrooms. Several physicians have begun practicing at the facility, with more expected soon in a number of specialty areas.

Clinical services to be offered will include Family Practice, Physical Therapy, Orthopedics, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Radiology/Lab services and a therapy pool. The fitness center will feature a cardiovascular conditioning area with stair machines, treadmills, bikes, rowing and ski machines; an indoor track with a banked course; an aerobics studio; a climbing wall; racquetball and squash courts; a full gymnasium with two basketball courts; full-service locker rooms and a 6-lane lap pool.

The Healthplex is the result of a cooperative partnership among Baptist Health Systems, Mississippi College and Michigan-based Healthcare Equities Group (HEG). HEG will operate the facility, supported by the health and education resources of its two partner institutions. "It's part of our mission to provide high-quality Christian-based medical care," said Baptist CEO Kurt W. Metzner. "The Healthplex is one example of how we're reaching out through that mission to provide a complete program of health, fitness and lifestyle counseling to help people live better lives."

Understanding the Benefits of Medical/Wellness Facilities

Call 1-800-948-6262 for more information.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

VINYL SIDING

NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING

SAVE NOW
as low as **\$50**
Per Mo. W.A.C.

CALL 1-888-373-0054
PAY-less Home Improvements

Revival results

Grace, Philadelphia: Oct. 5-8; Kevin Jones, Soso, evangelist; Mark Manning, Philadelphia, music; three professions of faith; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

Walker Hill, Brandon: 18 professions, 4 by letter; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Robert Netterville, pastor.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Sept. 21-25; 25 professions of faith; 12 by letter or statement; Tom Cox, evangelist, Howard Collier, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Oral, Sumrall: Nov. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; James Messer, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Philip Butler, Sumrall, music; Thomas McCormick, pastor.

Hope, West Point: Nov. 7-12; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Kris Hollis, music; Avery Jones, pastor.

Rock Hill, Brandon: Nov. 14-16; Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Jeff Powell, BSU, Mississippi College, evangelist; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

Antioch (Holmes): Nov. 16-19; Sunday, 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Blythe, Flora, evangelist; Nancy Spell, Lexington, music; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Brotherhood of Unity Church, Attala County, under the direction of Joe Alexander, had a mission project to paint North Union Church, Attala County, on Sept. 27. Members of Unity and Sandhill churches had a day of work and fellowship. Lunch was served by the ladies. Jessie Scott Jr. is pastor of Unity Church.



Lena Church, Lena, celebrated "Myrtis Bell Day" on Oct. 12. Bell (above) retired as church organist after 41 years. She is

pictured receiving a plaque from Tom Stevens, pastor.

Center Grove Church, Oktibbeha Association, recently dedicated its new fellowship building in honor of Jay and Willodean James. Jack Teer is pastor.

Homeboy Celebration will be held at Sunrise Church, Leake Association, at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 9. Speakers are men who have been ordained by the church. They are Wade Chappell, pastor of Grandview

STAFF CHANGES

Anthony Langley, minister of music and youth at McClellan Road Church, Biloxi, announced his resignation effective Nov. 2, to accept a position as minister of music and youth at First Church, Arabi, La., while he attends New Orleans Seminary. Kenna Byrd is pastor of McClellan Road Church.

Sid L. Taylor has resigned as pastor of Orange Grove Church, Jackson Association. He and his wife Kay have entered into the ministry of

evangelism and prison ministry. Taylor founded PEO/Justice Ministries 17 years ago. The Taylors can be reached at (601) 872-6410.

First Church, Nettleton, has called **Christy Anderson** of Sallito as minister of youth effective Sept. 9. Anderson received her education at the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. George C. Johnson is pastor.



GAs of Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis, held its third recognition service on Sept. 21. Pictured (from left) bottom row, are Casey Risher and Katie Lewis; second row, Whitney Morgan, Sommer Reeves, Tia Vickers; third row, Nikki Hill, Hailey Reeves, Neshay Vickers; top row, Shelia Morgan, leader, Ellen Shaw, director; Jima Lewis, Jenna Harrington, Hanna Morgan, and Mae Morgan and Jamie Lewis, leaders.

Church, Pearl; Tim Smith, director of Metro Student Ministry, Little Rock, Ark.; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor of Pearl Hill Church, Carthage; and James White, pastor of Salem Church, Carthage. Lunch will be served at noon. H. Frank Smith is pastor.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, exceeded its goal of \$430, offering amount last year, for the World Hunger Offering by giving a total of \$638.66. The church family used the World Hunger Rice Bowl Banks to collect the

money for a month. The church also exceeded its goal of \$550 for the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions by giving a total of \$565. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

First Church, Poplarville, will host J. D. Sumner and the Stamps Quartet in concert, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. For more information concerning tickets, call (601) 795-4531.

The Rowlands will be in concert at Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, at 7 p.m. on Nov. 9.

Planning a Church Event?

- ◆ Youth Retreats
- ◆ Staff Retreats
- ◆ Senior Adult trips
- ◆ Mission Trips

Providence House is your solution.

We can provide:

- lodging
- meeting space
- meal set-up.
- help with sightseeing, tours, and cruises in the New Orleans area

Contact us to help YOU
plan your event at
(504) 944-4455

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Youth/Recreation Minister. Send resumes to First Baptist Church of Byram, 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Phone 601-372-3156.

NEEDED: A PART-TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL minister of music. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, Yale Street Baptist Church, PO Box 816, Cleveland, MS 38732.

ACCEPTING RESUMES: Part-time music minister. Send to: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 1383 Pleasant Hill Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

HELP WANTED: Staff pianist and staff organist. Immanuel Baptist Church, Cleveland, MS. Good Salary. (601) 843-3507.

PERSONAL CARE/ASSISTED LIVING Available in Private upscale home. 24 hours - 7 day full service administered by owner-operator with 30 years medical experience. Information by your inspection visit and private interview. Call for appointment, Edwards, MS (601) 852-2010.

PASSENGER VANS FOR private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

SBC YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED: Spring/Summer missions - Atlanta, Baltimore, Branson, Buffalo, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Washington, El Paso, New Orleans, Philadelphia. Package includes most meals, housing. For cost, information, call Youth on Mission 800-299-0385.

CHURCH BUSES! CHURCH BUSES! Blue Bird, Turtle Top, World Trans/new and clean pre-owned models available! We consider all trades. Call Harry Hosey at Transportation South, Inc. 800-367-9463.

YOUTH OUTINGS? Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

STEEPLE FOR SALE: Base 6 ft. x 6 ft. Height 18 to 20 ft. Pitch 8/12. Fiberglass. Goodwater Baptist Church, Magee, MS 39111. Telephone (601) 849-2283.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

CFI - PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

FOR SALE: 1990 Wheeled Coach church bus, Ford-7.3L diesel engine. 52,000 miles, 30 passenger with recliners, \$25,000.00. First Baptist Church, Leland, MS 601-686-7357 or Yancy DeLoach 601-686-9947 (evenings).

NOTCH ESTATES-BRANSON, MO. Condo, 1 mile west of Silver Dollar City; 2BR, 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th free. Free continental breakfast. \$95 daily. (SPECIAL OFFER) Golden Anniversaries - 4 nights at \$95, 2 free nights plus gift. Other specials available. (601) 746-4632.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

Arkansas Bus Sales

Providing Transportation Solutions



Pacer LTD by Goshen
Coach 15 Passenger,
Gas or Diesel
NO CDL Required

Check
our Pricing
Before you
Buy!

#1 in Van &
Buses



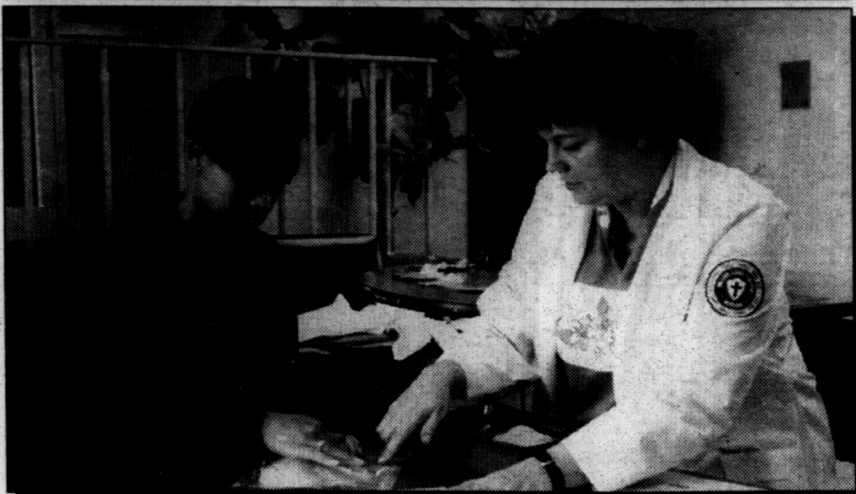
SENTRY-30 to 32 Passenger
Chevy Diesel or 454 Gas
Freightliner Cummins-Diesel

72" Interior Headroom ♦ Electric Passenger Door ♦ No Hump to Crawl over ♦ Low Entry Step-for seniors ♦ Easy Handling-Fun to Drive

CALL — Arkansas Bus Sales — TODAY
4805 FARM LANE RD. PINE BLUFF, AR 71603
501-879-1500 or 800-822-5307

Check our prices—we'll sell for Less New or Used
We have a Large Inventory of Used Buses
All Makes & Models

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



William Carey College nursing student Lisa Rawls of Ellisville (right) offers Trudy Johnson, a senior biology major from Sallis (left), information at a health fair recently held on campus. The School of Nursing conducted blood pressure screenings, and offered information on how to detect lumps that can lead to breast cancer in women or testicular cancer in men.



William Carey College's Missionary Kids (standing, back row) are Susan Rorabaugh of Ennis, Texas; Summers Dunaway of Brasilia, Brazil; Frank Rorabaugh of Ennis, Texas (seated middle row); Alicia Parker of Belem Para, Brazil; William Drummond of Clinton; Neysua Batchelor of Hattiesburg; Danny Panter of Florence; Val Peasso of Gruver, Texas; Amanda J. Taylor of Mulga, Ala. (front row seated); and Angela Ray of Korea. Not pictured are Alcidez Hunez II of Lima, Peru, and Rebekah Lay of Prentiss. In a continuing effort to expand the educational opportunities of sons and daughters of missionaries serving throughout the world, William Carey College joins the International Mission Board in providing scholarships to missionary kids (MKs).

"A MISSISSIPPI TRADITION"

43rd Thanksgiving Gospel Singing

Mississippi's Biggest Thanksgiving Gospel Singing will be held at the beautiful Municipal Auditorium in Jackson, MS

Friday, November 28, 1997
7:30 p.m.



FEATURING: FIOVIE LISTER AND THE STATESMEN QUARTET, THE HEARTLAND BOYS, THE BIBLETONES QUARTET, THE GOSPEL MESSENGERS, AND THE GOSPEL STRINGS

Tickets are available at the Christian Life Bookstore

\$10 advance \$12 day of show

Call 601-372-6466 for more information

Proceeds will help prevent child abuse, drug abuse, Easter Seals, families in dire need, others that we come in contact with, and just being a friend to the less fortunate

The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed first overall at the Northeast Louisiana State University Fall Invitational held recently in Monroe, La. The Crusader team also placed first in individual events sweepstakes and second in debate sweepstakes.

Mississippi Women's College (MWC), which became William Carey College in 1954, will celebrate homecoming on Nov. 14 and 15 on campus. The MWC activities will correspond with Carey's annual homecoming. Activities on Friday will include registration at 9 a.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery, luncheon at

12:15 p.m. in the Wilkes dining hall, reunion concert at 2:30 p.m., and reunion concert at 2:30 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. A street party will be held on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Mission Plaza followed by a social honoring award recipients and college retirees at 3 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (601) 582-6107.

Mississippi College Music Department will present William Farrar Strum of Jackson in a voice recital, Nov. 24, at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. A native of Clinton, Strum is the son of Bill and Lynda Farrar Strum.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



D'Lo Church, D'Lo, recently ordained **Doug Berry** (above) as a new deacon. Pictured (from left) are Berry and Robert Sones, pastor.



New Prospect Church, Iuka, held a Deacon Ordination Service on Sept. 21. Pictured (from left) are Doug Christy, pastor; Gerald Hodge, deacon; Ronny Stricklen, deacon chairman.

Johnny L. Sanders, a native of Sledge, was honored with a reception on Sept. 27 at First Place of First Church, West Monroe, La. He was presented with a plaque from the Louisiana Baptist Convention at the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. He was given the State Lifetime of Service Award, acknowledged by Governor Mike Foster. Sanders is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.



Sanders



Jerry Merriman, director, Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was guest speaker at First Church, Columbus, Oct. 5, for BSU Focus Night during its 165th anniversary celebration. Pictured with Merriman (from left) are Nell Green Sanford, Betty Jeane Weeks Dowdle, and Margaret McClellan Lewis, formerly BSU directors at MUW and present members of First Church.

Are you paying too much for your Hospital or Medicare Supplement Insurance? If yes, call for our Low Rates Today!

☐ Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.

Many Pre-Existing Health Conditions acceptable — High blood pressure, Diabetes, Heart conditions, etc. (Excellent Rates on ages 50+)

☐ Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. No waiting periods.

Low Rates!

Prescription Savers Plan: Save up to 50% on prescription drugs!

☐ Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

1-800-463-4348

LIFE AND WORK

In Jesus' name

John 14:12-14; 15:14-16; 16: 23-24, 26; 1 John 5:13-16

By Geneva England

One balmy July night, a confused youth sat gazing heaven-ly at the tiny twinkles as she prayed, "Dear Heavenly Father, I believe I belong to you, but the preacher said 'if we have doubts, we weren't really saved.' Please help me to know for sure that I belong to you."

The stars didn't fall, but a calmness blanketed that babe in Christ, sustaining her throughout the years. God heard and answered her sincere request.

Prayers asked in Jesus' name travel a powerful network to God through Christ who intercedes for his children. We feel his presence.

Seeking What Glorifies

God (John 14: 12-14).

Christians can accomplish much through prayer. If we don't pray regularly, we are sure to suffer. Why? Because by not praying, we essentially admit that something other than God controls us. Our prayers should glorify God by asking within his will rather than asking for selfish indulgences. Why ask for a new clock, when we need a spiritual awakening? Why ask for a vacation when we need a trip through the Bible? We must not ask amiss.

God is concerned with our daily needs as seen in the model prayer "Give us our daily bread." This request is for a daily staple, not a warehouse of food.



England

Participating in Jesus' work (John 15: 14-16). The work of Christ involves loving others. The ultimate example of love occurred when Jesus paid the sin debt separating sinners from the throne of God. Would we die for someone else, especially someone unknown? John 15:13 says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Yet Jesus did just that. God delights in our performing Christian love and service.

Enjoying Immediate Access to God (John 16: 23-24,26). When we Christians sin and we do daily—we have an advocate, Jesus Christ, who gives us immediate access to God the Father. Thus we can confess our sins and be forgiven (1 John 1: 9). The Holy Spirit, "another comforter" (John 14: 16), is our earthly advocate while Jesus Christ is our heavenly advocate. What a comfort to enjoy

this close relationship with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Praying According to God's Will (1 John 5: 13-16). These final verses of First John provide confidence in the security of the believer. John declares, "You may know that you have eternal life" through belief in the name of the Son of God. This assurance of eternal life leads believers to pray confidently, realizing our prayers will be answered when we pray according to God's will. God directs us to ask although he already knows our needs and desires, but our humble submission in asking is opposite the prideful heart he hates. Through a close walk with God, we tend to ask more in accord with his will. He then "hears us" with understanding and sympathy.

John says, "Because we obey his commands and do what pleases him" we can receive "anything we ask" (1 John 3:21-

22). Notice that this promise is contingent on our proper relationship with him. We cannot have a half-hearted commitment or a pretense faith, "For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 John 3:20 NIV).

The Lord himself, when praying to the Father, said, "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done." (Luke 22:42). God honors those who acknowledge him in all their ways and trustingly leave the answers and timing with him. Therefore, we, the sheep of his fold, trust his promise of eternal life — "an inheritance that does not fade away" (1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV).

As you've probably guessed, I was the young girl disturbed about her salvation. The assurance that God gave me that night as I prayed has filled my life with joy and confidence. Prayer works!

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Continuing in faith

Genesis 17:1-27

By Jason Bird

"Walk before me and be blameless." Twenty-four years after initially calling Abram to leave his homeland and go to the place he would show him, this was God's call to Abram. This was a call to continue to walk in faith and to be distinct from other people who did not believe in God. This is the same call God issues to believers today. We also must continue to walk in faith and be distinct from those who have not committed themselves to God. The covenant of circumcision can lead us to see how we may respond to God's challenge to continue to walk in faith.

New names for the people of

promise (17:1-5, 15-16).

God wanted his children of promise to be distinct among the pagan nations surrounding them. One of the things he did was change their names and give them names which reflected his purpose in their life. Abram meant "exalted father" and could actually have applied to many fathers. God changed his name to Abraham, which meant "father of many." That name could only apply to this one man whom God had promised to make the father of a nation.

Likewise, Sarai had her name changed. Sarai meant "my princess", while Sarah simply meant "princess." She would

not only be the wife of Abraham and the mother of his child, she would actually be the mother of an entire nation.

The new identity indicated their new relationship with Christ. Likewise, when we come to know Christ, we also have a new identity. Our names may not change, but our purposes do. When we submit our lives to Christ, he takes ordinary folks like Abraham and Sarah and uses them in extraordinary ways to accomplish his purposes. Once we give our lives to Christ, we no longer live for ourselves; we have a new identity as a part of the family of God and a new calling to tell others about God's greatness.

The sign of the covenant (17:6-14). For the first time, God spoke of a special relationship, not only with Abraham, but with his descendants as well.



Bird

Abraham's children were to receive a special mark of distinction which would separate them as God's chosen people. This was the sign of the covenant God made with his people, sealing them as his own.

Believers are under a new covenant established by Jesus Christ at Calvary. However, there is still a seal marking this covenant. That seal is the Holy Spirit of God given to everyone who has submitted their life to Christ.

A moment of doubt (17:17-19). As the experiences of Abraham have already shown, even great men of faith have times when they simply don't understand what God is planning to do. When reminded again of God's plan to make a great nation, Abraham literally fell to the ground laughing. The very idea of two people as old as he and Sarah having a child was inconceivable to Abraham.

Fortunately for Abraham,

God did not get angry at this lack of respect or this questioning. Instead, God simply reaffirmed what he had told Abraham all along. God reminded Abraham he didn't change his mind and he didn't forget his promises.

Obedience to God (17:23-27). God's reassurances must have strengthened Abraham's faith. He didn't waste any time but immediately began to implement God's plan of circumcision for everyone connected with his household. As he had done when he left his homeland, Abraham demonstrated his faith by his obedience to God.

It is one thing to say we have faith in God, it is quite another to live like it. We always show the validity of our faith our obedience to God. Like Abraham, we need to answer the call to continue to walk in faith and trust in God.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Make the hard choices

Ezra 9:1-10:17

By Wayne VanHorn

Last week's lesson indicated that the people of the Post-exilic period sought to adhere more closely to the Law of Moses (Ezra 6:18). It is important to note that the dedication of the Temple took place in 516 B.C. Today's lesson deals with events that occurred during Ezra's tenure as scribe. Ezra did not return to the land until 458 B.C. During the period between the Temple dedication and the return of Ezra to the land, the men of Judah had taken non-Hebrew wives.

Painful Discovery (Ezra 9:1-3). Ezra's discovered that some

of the Hebrew men had intermarried with "the daughters" of foreigners. Essentially the problem was not racism but rather purity of worship. We are reminded of the Lord's prohibition against marrying the "inhabitants of the land" lest they "make your sons play the harlot after their gods" (Exod. 34:15-16; Deut. 7:3-4; RSV). The most notable historical proof of the danger of contamination is found in 1 Kings 11:1-11. Solomon's love for many foreign women resulted in a half-hearted devotion at best to the Lord. The Lord vowed to tear the kingdom away from Solomon



VanHorn

because of the king's foolish disrespect of the Lord's prohibition. When Ezra returned to the land of Judah he discovered painfully that many men, including the "officials and chief men" (Ezra 9:2) had incurred guilt in this matter. Seemingly, the lessons of history had been forgotten. God's people were headed down the same road of disobedience.

Necessary Correction (Ezra 10:9-11). Ezra's response to this discovery was to pray. He acknowledged the sin and guilt of past generations of the people. Ezra referred to "the remnant," to "his holy place," and to God's desire to "grant us a little reviving in our bondage" (10:8). Ezra viewed his time and circumstances as a new opportunity for the people to develop as the "holy race" that God had intended for them to

be all along (see Exodus 19:4-6; Ezra 9:2). Due to the danger of religious contamination or syncretism, Ezra prayed to God, acknowledging the sins of the people in this matter. The term "unclean" in 9:11 refers to idolatrous practices. Desperate times called for desperate measures! In 10:9-11 Ezra gathered the men of Judah and Benjamin in the square in front of the Temple. He asked them to do three things to rectify the situation: first, make confession to the Lord of their wrongful marriage to foreign women; second, do the Lord's will, meaning to commit to raising godly offspring (see Malachi 2:15); and third, to divorce themselves from their foreign wives. Only in this way could the survival and purity of the people of God be maintained.

Compassionate Obedience (Ezra 10:12-14). These events took place in the "in the ninth

month" (10:9) which is around December, during the midst of the rainy season. The men acknowledged their wrongdoing but asked for time to deliberate and to handle the dissolution of their marriages in an appropriate manner (10:12-14). The process took three months and resulted in the dissolution of 110 marriages. The purpose of these divorces was to avert "fierce wrath of our God" (10:14). Often our disobedience puts us in situations that can only be corrected through drastic measures. Only through prayer and a clear understanding of God's Word can corrective measures be taken. The mass divorce of Ezra's day was deemed necessary and appropriate for their time and situation. The same action would not be appropriate for Christians today (see 1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN INC.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

SEP. 1, 1997-
SEP. 30, 1997

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Annie Robinson
Mrs. Anna W. Simmons
Mr. Knox Winton Ross, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Andrews
Mr. Knox Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Martin
Bonnie Salers
Shirley M. Nowell
Jerry Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie G. Beck
Mr. Bill Sanders
Mr. Danny R. Gregory
Mrs. Betty Scarbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lott
Mrs. Annette Schimpf
Dr. & Mrs. Reggie H. Broom
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough
Mrs. Ann Southerland
Reba Selby
Ernest & Becki Moore
Charles & Linda Moore
Edward & Pam Moore
Paul & Debbi Moore
Betty Rae Sellers
Jerry Meadows
Mr. Thomas Sheffield
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Martha Shepard
Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Gay Jr.
Mack Rudolph Shoemaker
Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Lee Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Douglas
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
Ms. Wilma Nell Lee & Family
Mrs. Inez Shumaker
Ms. Marguerite S. Vance
M. J. Shurden
Blocker Sunday School Second BC
George F. Sigrest Jr.
Shirley Sigrest
Mr. Roy Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Eath Sims
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Kathleen Skelton
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy T. Hollingsworth
Michael John Slater
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Lott
Bernice Smith
Farm Service Agency Employees
Mr. Prentiss B. Smith
Deacons of Macedonia Baptist Church
Mrs. C.B. Smith
Lillian & Billy Thomas
Verbie Lee Smith
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatewood
Mrs. Arthur R. Spitzbarth, Jr.
Miss Jean Graves
Flora (Boots) Stamper
Mrs. Virginia A. Potts
Mr. Ralph Andrew Steele, Sr.
Mrs. Shirley Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Greg W. Carpenter & Fly
Carmen & Cory Curtis & Fly
A. D. & Faye Robertson
Shane & Tonya Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Coleman Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robbie Jim Myers
Mr. Dallas Stevenson
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Kirkland
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Cruise
Mrs. Ruby Stinson
Wessie E. Crain
Mrs. Frances Stockstill
Mr. & Mrs. Matt L. Taylor
C. Howard Stone
Mr. & Mrs. George V. Borrows
Rev. W. R. Storie
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T. Scarborough
Chuck Stubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Bridges

Mrs. Allie Mae Sturgis
Mrs. Audrey W. Hamilton
Mrs. Doris Morris
Mr. T. B. Sullivan
Hopewell BC
Lee Swiney
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Duckworth
Mrs. Gertrude Tate
Mary F. & Elise Wyatt
Mr. Ronald Tatum
Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Eaton
Clarence Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Blair
Mr. James Edward Teaford
Mrs. Shirley K. Martin
Mrs. Lois D. Williams
Mrs. Beatrice Womack Tharp
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Ethan Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh R. Johnson
Mrs. Mary Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp Jr.
Mr. Carl Thompson
Ms. Louie M. Carter
Mrs. Jane Thorpe
Mrs. Erlene M. Pritchard
Mr. Marion Tillman
Mrs. Audrey W. Hamilton
Mrs. Doris Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Slay
Myrtis Price Toler
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Harpole
Mrs. Arlette Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mr. Henry C. Tucker
Mrs. Jane P. Ireland
Mr. Frank Turman
Harrell Chevrolet-Olds Co.
Mrs. Elmer Tutor
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Davis
Mrs. Sara Tutor
Billy & Betty Bonner & Family
Frances, Rich & Grace Defenbaugh
Phelan & Ben McElwath
Dr. & Mrs. R. B. Townes Jr.
Vennis Upchurch
Edward R. Barlow
Mr. Earl L. Van Zandt
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Raymond
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Thibodeaux
Mr. & Mrs. David G. Willis
Buddy Viner
Mr. Jamie A. Cuming III
Mr. L. T. Vines
Lee & Marshalene Gillespie
Janie Lee
Mildred Wright Wade
Mrs. Earnest E. Clark & Family
Lozelle Wall
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
McKay Everett & Toney Warren
Mrs. Mattie Lee Drummond
Mrs. Wase
Mrs. Mary V. Golding
Mrs. Pauline Watts

Mr. & Mrs. T. W. West
E. J. Welsh
Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Stewart
Mrs. W. V. (Ruby) Westbrook, Sr.
Mr. Chester K. Beerhour
Mrs. Freda J. Laughlin
Miss Trella Laughlin
Mr. & Mrs. W. Harold Davis
Mrs. Bill (Jeanette) White
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Linder
Mr. Wayne H. Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Jim Boozer - Chevron Oil, Inc.
Bill Schroeder
Mrs. C. W. White
The Peoples Bank & Trust
Jeanette White
Brownie & Dorris Crawford
Christopher Scott Wiley
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Cruise
Mrs. Frances M. Wilkerson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mr. Hiram G. Williams, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Berry
Rev. Burwell Williams
Donna Pace & Family
Kathleen Carucci & Family
Kay Smith & Family
Marsha Darnell & Family
Robert Marion Williamson
Mrs. Kathryn S. Ellison
Elaine Willoughby
Mrs. Earl Allen
Mr. & Mrs. James Paul Robinson
Lesca Moore Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mrs. Agnes Wiltshire
Dorcas SSC Wesson BC
Mr. Gilbert Winborne
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Martin
Elva Winstead
Mr. & Mrs. David Oakman
Mr. D. M. White
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Ruben Wolfe
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Woods
Mrs. Virginia Woodham
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor
Mrs. Bessie Garrick Yaw
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Walters

OCT. 1, 1997-
OCT. 31, 1997

HONORS

Charles & Margaret Armstrong
Ms. Elgie Wilks Chatham
Mr. J. E. Coker
Charles & Jessie Coker
Mr. Terry Dent
Mr. & Mrs. J. Lee McCoy Jr.
Kathy Griffin
Jack & Judy McRee
Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Guy, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Maxwell & Cheryl
Bill A. Hannaford
Tammy Hannaford & Teresa Dunlop
The Bobby Hannaford Family
Bob & Anna, Doug & Tina Jones
Mrs. John Griffith Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome & Fly
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Branscome and Family
Brother Dave & Anne Hartson
Bala Chitto Baptist Church
Mrs. Nellie Higgins
Charles & Jessie Coker
Mrs. Bessie B. Hills
Alatheaan SSC FBC - Collins
Rev. & Mrs. Murray Hux
Mrs. Bal Mobley
Buddy Lawrence
Deborah SSC FBC-Poplarville
Mrs. Doug Lewis
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Dave Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mrs. Elmer Myers
Mrs. Pattie T. Dent
Mrs. Ann O'Hare
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Judy Perkins
Ms. Elgie Wilks Chatham
Freu & Viola Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Sherrell Sturdivant
Dona Rousey
Fidelis SSC Highland BC
A. D. Shaw
Brunt-Ward Autogatives
Terry Wills
Fellowship BC
Rev. & Mrs. Jim Yates
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion

MEMORIALS

Father of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Smith
Mother of Susie Hamby
Bovina Baptist Church
Sister of Mrs. Erlene Cummins
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Son of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Milliken
Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Smith
Mrs. Ellen Abrams
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Pickett
Herbert Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Grover Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Joe Bailey
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Bill & Deena Barbee
Mrs. Effie Horn Beak
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Lelia Mae Cagle Beall
Mrs. Ruby Chadwick
Billy & Tommie Broome
Merna C. Hall
Mrs. Emma Jo Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Neil King
Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Newman Sr.
Skeets Billingsley
Ms. Margie Ruth Lynch
Jaxie Bishop
Mrs. Joy L. Harris
L. C. Blackledge
Mrs. Louise S. Hisscox
Janice Blake
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Young
Mr. Martin L. Bonds, Sr.
J. C. Graves Jr.
Julia Mullins
Mrs. Elaine Boozer
Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Sparks
Mrs. Eugenia H. Box
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Thornhill
Mrs. Cora Mead Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark
Mr. S. E. Boykin
Rosa A. Miller
Mr. William Guy Branscome, Sr.
Mrs. Stella I. Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Williams Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Edison Thomas & Fly
Mr. & Mrs. Max Juchheim
Ms. Neva F. Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Embry
Mr. Lonnie D. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown & Family
Lynn Hardage
Merle Brown
Cindy H. Shackelford
Mrs. Lilla Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Vernon (Buddy) Buckley
Ms. Patricia S. Quina
Billie D. Whitfield
Mr. J. C. Bufkin
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson
Mr. Charles Burkeken
Mrs. Mary B. Ford
Mr. Cecil Burns
Mrs. Hasseltine B. DeBoe
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Smith
Mrs. Elsie Vessell
Rebecca Sunday School DeKalb BC
Mrs. Annie Ruth Burns
Paul, Sharon, Hendon & Jeremy Ervin
Neil Haley
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Lipe
Mrs. Ann Burtis
Mrs. Dorothy McLain
Hoyt Bush
Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Reynolds
Henry A. Cain
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Lena Carroll
Cindy & Edna E. Harrington
Charlotte & Joe Steele
Joseph Carey Carson
Clear Creek Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stanley

Mr. Joe Chance
Cornerstone SSC FBC-Hattiesburg
Mrs. Frances Chapman
Ladies SSC FBC-Sledge
Mrs. Nancy Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Larry S. Benson
Mrs. Cooper L. Partridge
Mrs. Margaret Clinton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mr. Curtis Combest
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar E. Arthur
Mrs. Mattie B. Flynt
Raymond Connolly
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Sumrall Cooley
Larry & Frances Cooley
Thurman Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil
T.E.L. SSC Springfield BC
Mr. Ernest Crawford
Mr. Norman Weathersby Jr.
Mr. Eugene Crawford
Hamp Collier
Earl Crofts
Mrs. Jerry W. Carpenter
Richard Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. Morris H. McCaffrey
Ize LeRoy Curry
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge
Lucille B. Dacus
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
M. Anderson & Willie Mae David
Ruth Smith SSC FBC-Grenada
Rev. Bobby Davis
Bill & Deena Barbee
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Young
Mr. Walter Barbee
Mr. Walter Barbee
Mr. Frank Davis
Henry & Russell Riley
Joe Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Henderson
Winnie & E. B. DeLoach
Jackson Charter Chapter of American Business Women's Association
Preston J. Dew
Sanctuary Choir Eastside BC
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Paul Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Mr. Piper Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Maxwell & Cheryl
Zettie Dobbs
Mrs. Ethel L. Gafford
Mrs. Georgia Dover
Union BC
D. E. Duke
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Geneva Duke
Cindy H. Shackelford
Paul Dukes
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Grantham
Mrs. Miriam Eatherly
Mr. Norman Weathersby Jr.
Mr. Wayne Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. John Champion
Hortense Champion
LaWanda Chandler, Jeff Champion
Tony Champion
Jan Irwin
Mrs. Hazel Ellis
Eddie & Joy Harris
Ruth SSC FBC Tupelo
Misses Fern & Dixie Pattie
Edward Embry
Mr. & Mrs. Doc Oakman
Mr. W. Pete Espey
Mr. & Mrs. E. Wayne Smith Family
H. C. Espey & Family, Benton Espey
Mrs. Anita S. Williams
Mike Fancher
Sue & Hettie Williams
Jarrett Faulkner
Billie & Tommy Marshall
Mr. Lloyd Merrell Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Riley

Mrs. Hazel Fowler
Dorcas SSC Bowmar Avenue BC
Mr. Jack Freaney
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus W. Ware
Melanie Fuller
Fern & Dixie Pattie
Billy G. Fulton
Mr. & Mrs. Philip H. West
Mrs. Melvye Pierce Furr
Mrs. Simon J. Lewis
Pat Gallagher
Mrs. Mary E. Sanford
Mrs. Ruth M. Gallaspy
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Mary Geoghegan
Mrs. Dorothy B. Robertson
Mrs. J. R. Gipson
Mrs. W. G. Yates
Mrs. Nancy Goff
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson
Horace Golmon
Lamar & Sherry Foote
Roger & Debra White
Mrs. Kenneth (Donna) Gordon
Tom, Bettye & Jennie Coward
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Mr. & Mrs. James Rochester
Ms. Hope H. Hawkins
Mrs. Wilma Grammer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Griffith
Mrs. Mildred Graves
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Hatten
Mr. Bobby Greenaway
Sharon Carpenter Coats
Ben Greer
Mr. & Mrs. J. Richard Young Jr.
Maurine Gregg
Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Doler
Mrs. Margaret McDade Gulley
Leroy, Sandra & Morgan Peoples
Ms. Nell T. Campbell
Mrs. Beth B. Bounds
Mrs. Lois McWilliams Gully
Mrs. Ray A. Whelan Jr.
Curtis B. Gunter, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Thelma Joyce Smith Hales
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Sanderford
Phil Smith
Mrs. Helen Ham
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Reeves
Kevin Hankins
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Ratcliff
Kenneth (Bud) Harper
Dr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Adams & Staff
Greg Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh R. Johnson
Mrs. Bobby Hartley
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Stanley
Mrs. Joe B. Hartley
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Ms. Dorothy Pitts
Edith Hemeter
Mrs. Irene Loftus
Charles Henderson
Ruth Stubbs & Bruce
Mr. W. T. Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II
Mr. W. B. Hess
Mrs. Mary B. Ford
Mr. Samuel Cecil Hill
Dr. & Mrs. Chester W. Masterson
Mrs. Ruby Hollingsworth
Jessie W. Lewis
Bobby E. Hopson
Bolton Baptist Church
Mr. Clifton House
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Carlisle
Wayne Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Lucille Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. John Hobbs
Mrs. Ella Hutto
Ms. Louise M. Carter
Dean Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Oberschmidt

Mary Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Triplett
Mr. W. H. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Coleman Jr.
Mrs. Irene Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Pickett
Flossie Jarnagin
Mrs. Ethel L. Gafford
James Johnson
Cindy H. Shackelford
Mr. Paul Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lee
Cory Guy Jones
Donna Renea Moore & Family
Harold Jones
Mrs. Fran Kerley
Mr. & Mrs. Delma J. Roberts
Harold L. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Lee Sr.
Mr. Leroy Kendrick
Ruth SSC Hurley BC
Molly Kent
Tim & Helen Anderson
Kenneth Kiddy
Gene & Sue Mullins
Archie M. Kimbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Knight
Mr. Brian Kinsey
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Conant
Ralph A. Boykin
Mr. Curtis Kirk
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Pickett
Ed & Louise Smith
Mrs. Thelma Kirkland
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Maxwell & Cheryl
Thelma Kirkland
Paul & Linda Albritton
Mr. Pete Knight
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Carlyle
Liz Kyser
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pettey
Pat Lambert
Ann Lambert Newman
Henrietta Lambert Scott
John Lankford
Lurlene McGraw
Mrs. Frances Lauderdale
Mrs. Harris Peyton
Amy Kelly Lee
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Switzer
Mr. Vernon (Pete) Lee
Nell Lee & Family
Mrs. Vernie Lee
Nell Lee & Family
Avery Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Mrs. Daisy Leigh Lickfold
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome
Mr. & Mrs. Max Juchheim
Mamie Sue Livingston
Brunt-Ward Automotives
Mr. Akin Luter
Mrs. Marie L. Upton
Mr. W. L. (Polly) Malone
Mens SSC Cedar Bluff BC
Mr. Charlie Martin
Aileen Spruill
Kolola Springs Baptist Church
Mr. Lee Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Don Healy
Mrs. Othal Lee Massey
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Gorden Masterson
Mr. & Mrs. Teddy L. Cummins
Carolyn Crocker Matthews
Bryant & Peggy Myatt

CORRECTION:
Aug. 1, 1997-
Aug. 31 1997

Mrs. Truitt Smith
The Children of Sam & Inez Beach

The Baptist Children's Village

is offering YOU the opportunity to purchase

"Memorable Meals"

a cookbook celebrating our 100th year in childcare.

Make checks payable to: **The Baptist Children's Village**

P.O. Box 27

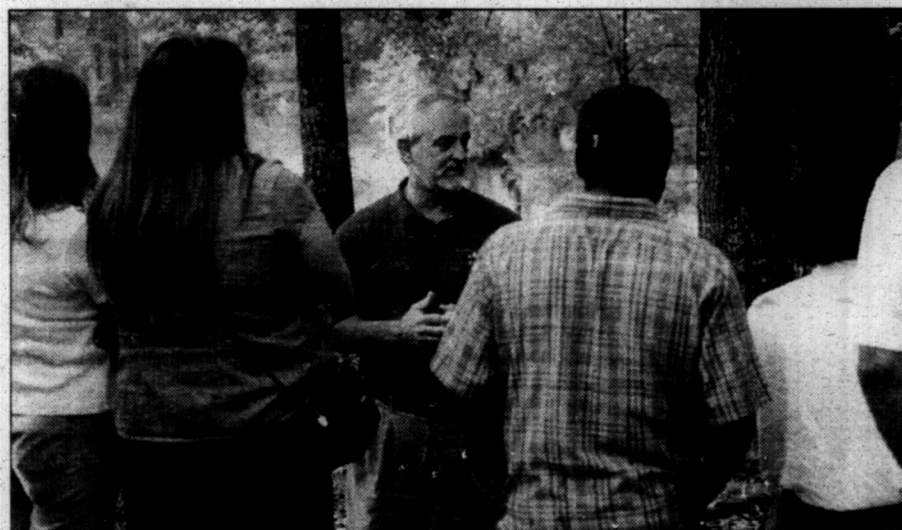
Clinton, MS 39060

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Cost is: \$5.00 plus \$1.95 shipping and handling.



It was "Family Day" at The Baptist Children's Village India Nunnery Campus, Saturday, October 25. Parents or significant individuals in BCV children's lives spent the day on campus. Family Day opened at 9:30 with fun and games led by Director of Activities Chip Price and staff member Bob Catlett. Parents then were led in an "Effective Parenting" training session by John Nowlin, Director of Staff and Child Development, and Chris Huff, Unit Director. The training ended with a tour and explanation of the ropes course and how it is used to help their children. The families enjoyed lunch together on campus before making their way to Powell Chapel for a meaningful service. BCV young people presented skits and children under 12 sang for their audience. Each child received an award for significant achievements in their lives.

Moorhead Church suffers devastating fire

By David Hitt & Robert Smith
The Enterprise-Tocsin

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1997

T ITNP QL KTP, ZO RFDD
PT Z AMR QL RNMYR:
YBCD QD HNTQ BII
RFDQ RFBR ADNYDEM RD
QD, BOP PDIZCDN QD.
AYBIQY YDCDO: TOD

Clue: E equal C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Seven Fifteen.

The fire on the evening of July 26 at the Moorhead Baptist Church left little of the church's 68-year-old sanctuary but memories.

According to a report issued by Sunflower County Fire Coordinator Jim Whitfield, the fire at the church on Olive Street was first reported at 7:30 p.m. The Moorhead Fire Department responded to the fire, and requested additional help from the Sunflower Volunteer Fire Department.

Within about 12 minutes of the first call, the firefighters from Indianola, Inverness, and Itta Bena were also called in. The five fire departments and about 30 firefighters finished fighting the fire at 1 a.m.

The cause of the fire has yet to be officially determined, but fire investigators believed that an electric attic ventilation fan may have played a role in causing the fire.

During the blaze, the firefighters' water supply ran short, and some water service was cut off, and the wells' pumps were at 100% to attempt restoring the water pressure. The town's new downtown water tower is not yet on line.



UP IN FLAMES — A frustrated fireman holds his hose nozzle and watches Moorhead Church burn on July 26. When the town's water tank pressure dropped, firefighters were hampered in their fight. (Photos courtesy of Joe Wilson, Mississippi Delta Community College. Used by permission of The Enterprise-Tocsin, Indianola. Copyright 1997. All rights reserved)

the Methodist church at the auditorium at Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC).

He said that the Methodist congregation had planned to have service with the Moorhead Baptist Church congregation that week since their air conditioner was not working, and so they had to change their plans.

Eddie Hobbs' father, Edgar Hobbs, has been a part of the Moorhead Baptist Church congregation since he was born in 1919. He said the church sanctuary had been built in 1929.

One of the most notable losses the church suffered when the sanctuary burned were its 12 stained-glass windows.

"They were put in at that time (when the sanctuary was the built), and most were donated by families of members of the church," Edgar said.

Edgar said that a donation of \$250 was required for each of the stained glass windows when they were put in.

"They were valuable at the time and they've escalated since," he said. The windows had the names of the families which donated them in the glass, Edgar said. Eddie Hobbs said that the windows are being reappraised for replacement.

Edgar described the atmosphere at Sunday morning's service at MDCC after the fire as one of "sadness, shock, and sorrow. They were more or less in a state of disbelief," he said.

Tony Honeycutt has been working with other church leaders to plan the church's activities following the fire.

"We are in the process of getting the water and electricity and everything reconnected to the educational building," he said. Once that's done... the church will hold service in that

building until a new sanctuary can be built.

Honeycutt said that the church was already working on getting the debris removed from the grounds, and that work would soon begin on plans for a new sanctuary.

"There's a lot of memories in

that church, and you just can't replace those," he said. "But it's a building, and we'll rebuild and carry on with the work of the church."

Excerpted and used by permission of The Enterprise-Tocsin, Indianola. Copyright 1997. All rights reserved.



ALL THAT REMAINS — Church deacons Eddie Hobbs and Paul Sheffield sift through the rubble of Moorhead Baptist Church after a July 26 fire destroyed the church's 68-year old sanctuary. The church suffered major damage in other areas, but firefighters were able to save the educational building.

The church sanctuary was completely destroyed, and the area immediately behind it was heavily damaged, but the firefighters were able to save the church's educational building.

Eddie Hobbs, a deacon at the church, said that everybody worked together to save the educational building.

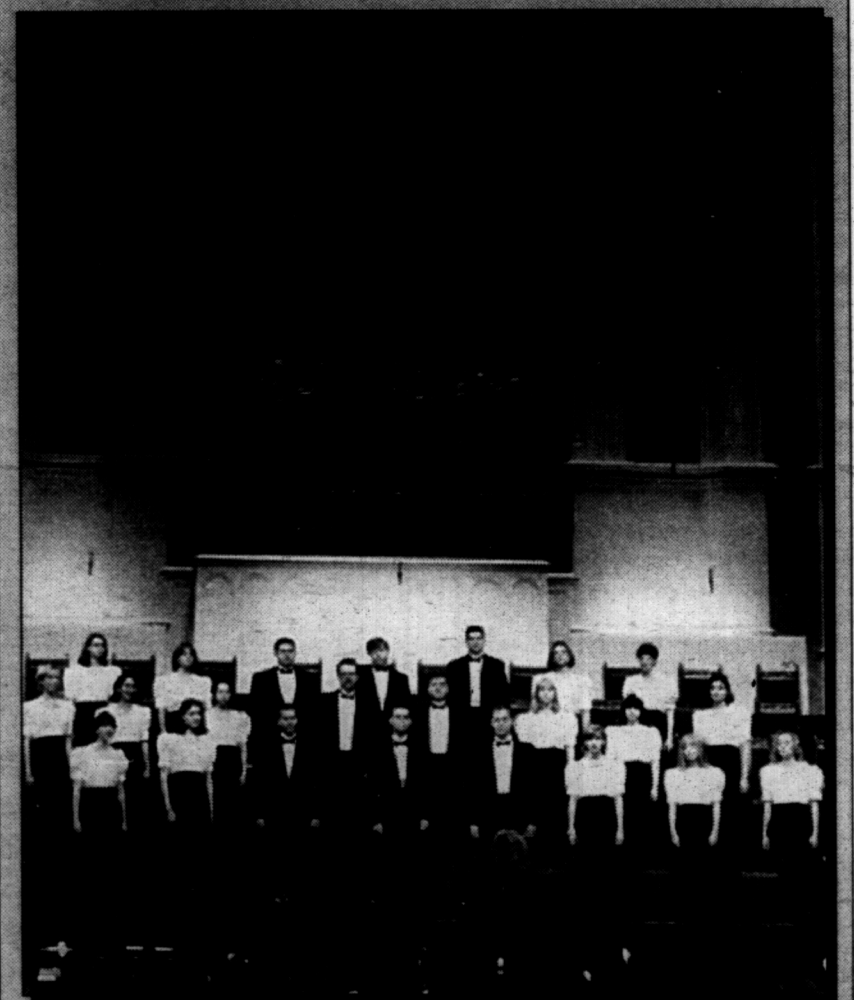
"We were real fortunate," he said. "When they saw it was a possibility that the building could be saved, everybody jumped in there."

He said the town residents pulled together to support the firefighters in their effort, providing them with water and helping any way they could.

"It took a joint effort of everybody in the community," Hobbs said.

Hobbs said that the church congregation met the next morning with the congregation from

BMC Choir performs



The Blue Mountain College (BMC) Choir under the direction of Dani Jones performs at the Oct. 29 morning session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Harold Fisher, longtime president of the Baptist-affiliated college in Blue Mountain, followed the performance with a report on the status of the school. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)